

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01918 061517Z

47

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 AF-04 EB-03

USSS-00 SY-02 A-01 PM-03 DODE-00 DRC-01 /072 W

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R 061420Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2613

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD OPS AEAGC-OCO

USELMLO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1918

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WB

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF ARAB TERRORISTS ARRESTED LAST MONTH  
IN BERLIN

REF: BERLIN 1813

1. SUMMARY: INVESTIGATION CONFIRMS THAT INDIVIDUALS  
ARRESTED BY WEST BERLIN POLICE (REFTEL) SERIOUSLY  
INTENDED TO ENGAGE IN TERRORIST OPERATIONS AGAINST  
TARGETS IN CITY. WHILE PLANS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN NIPPED IN  
BUD BY EARLY ARRESTS, NO EVIDENCE OF LARGE-SCALE  
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 01918 061517Z

RING HAS BEEN UNCOVERED. WE HAVE SOME INDICATION THAT

LARGE AND GROWING NUMBER OF ARABS IN WEST BERLIN, AS WELL AS RECENT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS AND STRONG PRO-ISRAEL AND PRO-U.S. POSITION TAKEN BY GOVERNING MAYOR AND OTHER MUNICIPAL LEADERS, MAY LEAD SENAT TO RECOMMEND EXPULSION FROM CITY OF ARRESTED INDIVIDUALS FORTHWITH LEST THEY BECOME LIGHTNING RODS FOR FURTHER EXREMIST ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERROGATION OF SUSPECTS ARRESTED LAST MONTH CONFIRMS THAT THEY WERE IN PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING BASE FOR TERRORIST ACTIONS IN WEST BERLIN, BUT HAD NOT REACHED STAGE OF ACTIVE PREPARATION FOR SPECIFIC ILLEGAL ACT WHEN POLICE MOVED AGAINST THEM ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY INFORMANT. FACT THAT TERRORISTS EXPOSED THEMSELVES TO INDIVIDUAL WHOSE RELIABILITY THEY COULD NOT VOUCH FOR AND THAT THEY WERE APPARENTLY AWAITING ARRIVAL OF ADDITIONAL HELP FROM OUTSIDE CITY TENDS TO SUPPORT THEORY THAT DESPITE LINKS TO BEIRUT-BASED ORGANIZATION, THEY COULD NOT CALL UPON ORGANIZED LOCAL CELL.

3. POLICE HAVE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECRUITMENT IN RESIDENT ARAB COMMUNITY OF 5600, AND SENAT SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT UNLESS PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST ARRESTED INDIVIDUALS, TERRORIST ACTIONS MAY BE UNDERTAKEN WITH VIEW TO WINNING THEIR RELEASE. ATTRACTIVENESS OF WEST BERLIN TARGETS MAY WELL HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY IN TERRORIST EYES IN RECENT DAYS AS RESULT OF STRONG STANDS BY CITY LEADERS, INCLUDING GOVERNING MAYOR, IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IN MIDDLE EAST WAR AND U.S. POLICY.

4. GOVERNING MAYOR PRIVATELY COMMENTED TO MINISTER THAT SENAT WISHED TO MINIMIZE RISK THAT IMPRISONED TERRORISTS COULD BE TURNED INTO MARTYRS. HE NOTED THAT FRG JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES HAVE REJECTED SENAT INQUIRIES ABOUT TRANSFERRING JURISDICTION OF CASE OUT OF BERLIN AND THAT TERRORISTS HAD PROBABLY ONLY VIOLATED BERLIN DEMILITARIZATION AND WEAPONS LEGISLATION AT TIME THEY WERE APPREHENDED. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, HE INDICATED  
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 01918 061517Z

SENAT MIGHT PROPOSE TO ALLIES RELATIVELY SOON THAT PRISONERS SIMPLY BE EXPELLED WITHOUT BENEFIT OF TRIAL AS BEST WAY TO AVOID FURTHER TROUBLE.

5. SUCH SUMMARY ACTION IS POSSIBLE UNDER ARTICLE 10 OF FOREIGNERS' LAW, WHICH PROVIDES THAT, ON DISCRETION OF APPROPRIATE CITY AUTHORITIES, "A FOREIGNER CAN BE EXPELLED WHEN (1) HE ENDANGERS THE FREE DEMOCRATIC

SYSTEM OR SECURITY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY ...."  
EXPULSION WOULD PRESUMABLY BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PUTTING  
PRISONERS ON PLANE TO BEIRUT VIA FRANKFURT. IF SENAT  
MAKES SUCH RECOMMENDATION, OUR IMPRESSION IS BOTH BRITISH  
AND FRENCH WOULD BE IN FAVOR, AND WE ALSO SEE MERIT  
IN TAKING SWIFT ACTION TO REMOVE SOURCE OF POTENTIAL  
FUTURE DIFFICULTIES. MOREOVER, IF BROUGHT TO TRIAL,  
TERRORISTS COULD PROBABLY ONLY BE PROSECUTED FOR  
RELATIVELY MINOR OFFENSES.

6. ARREST OF TERRORISTS HAS FOCUSED OFFICIAL INTEREST  
HERE ON POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES THAT LARGE ARAB COMMUNITY  
AND TRADITIONAL OPEN-CITY POLICY CAN CREATE FOR WEST  
BERLIN. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EASE WITH WHICH INDIVIDUALS  
CAN ENTER WEST BERLIN THROUGH EAST BLOC COUNTRIES,  
FOR EXAMPLE, APPROXIMATELY 1500 ARABS HAVE APPLIED FOR  
REFUGEE STATUS IN WEST BERLIN THIS YEAR, 900 IN JUNE-  
THROUGH OCTOBER PERIOD ALONE (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS).

7. WE WILL BE MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
LARGER SECURITY ISSUES INVOLVED AND IN MEANTIME, UNLESS  
INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE PROPOSE TO COOPERATE WITH SENAT IF  
GOVERNING MAYOR'S REMARKS ARE FOLLOWED UP WITH REQUEST  
FOR ALLIED COOPERATION IN EXPELLING ARRESTEES.  
BORG

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## Message Attributes

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